

Icebreaker

What's your favorite crime drama and why?

The Third Sign — Read John 5:1-18

Detour On the Reliability of the Bible

On Sunday, I talked about the fact that most modern translations of the Bible do not include verse 4. If you have access to the KJV, you can look it up to see what it says, or you can read the footnote in the NIV text. What do you think about the fact that verses were added / removed from the text of the Bible through history?

On Sunday, I claimed that we have two reasons to trust the Bible: (1) Scholars are helping us to discover the original text and (2) Nothing of significance is affected by any textual discrepancy. What do you think about these reasons to trust the Bible.

What else did you take away from Sunday's discussion of the Bible's reliability?

The Details

What do you think of the man in this story? Assuming that healing actually happened when people got in the water, what do you think of his 38 years as an invalid?

What do you think of Jesus' two interactions with the man?

What do you think of the Jewish leaders in this story?

What conclusion did the Jewish leaders reach about Jesus?

On Sunday, I claimed that the Jewish leaders asked the wrong question first. They asked about the man who claimed authority to supersede the Sabbath, but they should have asked about the man who had the power to heal. What difference, if any, would it have made if they asked the right question first?

Take it Home

John told this story at this time to make a very important point about Jesus:

Jesus, a man with the power of God claimed the authority of God, even calling himself equal with God.

- * What do you learn about people?
- * What do you learn about Jesus?
- * What do you learn about yourself?
- * Who needs to hear this lesson?

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